

Minutes 9/13/21
Egremont Bylaw Review Committee

In attendance:

Mary McGurn, Chairwoman (MM)
Richard Allen (RA)
Steve Goodman (SG)
Richard Slutzky (RS)
Eileen Vining (EV)

A quorum present, Chairwoman MM called the meeting to order at 4:04pm. Attendees were introduced. The meeting was held via Zoom.

Minutes

The Minutes of August 31, 2021 were approved.

Committee Report for the October Egremont Newsletter

MM's draft report was approved by the members. MM will email the approved report to Mary Brazie.

Vacancy Post to Solicit New Committee Members

Discussion ensued regarding MM's proposed draft. After minor changes, the members approved the draft. MM will email the vacancy post to Mary Brazie. The Committee is aware of one possible candidate who has contacted Mary Brazie.

Bylaw 14

The members agreed to not include two proposed new sections: the incorporation of MGL, c. 140 §136A through §174D in Bylaw 14 and the Selectboard's annual appointment of an Animal Control Officer. The members agreed to define Animal Control Officer at a future date and include its definition in the proposed new definition section.

The Committee approved amending 14.1.3 to read as follows:

14.1.3 Every dog six months of age or older kept in the Town of Egremont for more than 30 days shall be licensed by the Egremont Town Clerk in accordance with MGL Chapter 140 Section 137. The licensing period shall be from April 1 to March 31. Any dog kept in the Town for more than 30 days that is duly licensed in another municipality shall obtain an Egremont dog license at no cost for the remainder of the current licensing period. The Town Clerk may provide up to a 3-year license when proof of a 3-year rabies vaccination is submitted. An owner or keeper who fails to license a dog shall be subject to a fine of \$50 in addition to the licensing fee.

Previously approved:

14.1.4 All dogs, licensed or unlicensed, must be leashed when on public property within the Town. This includes town roads and French Park, except for the Dog Park. No owner or keeper shall permit a dog to go beyond the confines of the owner's or keeper's property without being leashed. Leashed dogs must be accompanied by a person of adequate age and ability to properly control its actions. A dog engaged in working, hunting, field trials or training purposes is exempt for the period of time it is actually engaged in the event or sport and provided it is under the direct supervision of a person capable of controlling its actions.

The Committee approved the following for Bylaw 14.1.5:

The Animal Control Officer, and in their absence, a police officer, may issue to the owner or keeper of a dog a temporary muzzling and/or restraining order if such an officer determines that the dog has either (1) without justification has attacked a person or domestic animal causing physical injury or death or (2) behaved in a manner that a reasonable person would believe poses an unjustified imminent threat of physical injury or death to a person or to a domestic or owned animal. The temporary order shall remain in effect until a hearing is held in accordance with MGL Chapter 140, Section 157.

The Committee agreed to address the issue of fines to complete section 14.1.5 at its next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Slutzky